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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1).(Previously Presented) A compound of the formula (I)

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
C & H & B & C \\
\hline
C & B & N & C \\
\hline
C & B & H & C
\end{array}$$
(I).

wherein C is an alicyclic or heterocyclic group having  $C_{2\nu}$  symmetry and B is ortho- $C_6$ - $C_{18}$  arylene.

2).(Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein B is orthophenylene or 2,3-naphthylene.

3).(Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring C is a ring system of the formulae (a) to (d)

wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  independently of one another are hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{25}$  alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_{12}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{24}$  aryl,  $C_1$ - $C_{25}$  alkyl-( $C_6$ - $C_{10}$ )-aryl, a heteroaromatic radical having 1,

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2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S,  $-(CH_2)_n$ -COR<sub>3</sub> and  $-(CH_2)_m$ -OR<sub>4</sub>,

in which  $R_3$  is hydroxyl, unsubstituted or mono- or poly-hydroxyl- or aminosubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_{25}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{25}$  alkylamino, di- $(C_1$ - $C_{26}$  alkyl)amino,  $C_1$ - $C_{25}$  alkyl- $C_6$ - $C_{24}$  arylamino,  $(C_6$ - $C_{24}$  aryl)amino, di- $(C_6$ - $C_{24}$  aryl)amino or  $C_2$ - $C_{24}$  alkenyloxy, and  $R_4$  is hydrogen or -CO- $(C_1$ - $C_{25}$  alkyl), and  $R_4$  in an independently of one another are an integer from 0 to 6, , and wherein in  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  a C-C unit can, optionally be replaced by an ether unit C-O-C, and  $R_4$  is  $R_5$ - $R_5$ -R

and  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  independently of one another are hydrogen, halogen, CN,  $R_1$ ,  $OR_1$ ,  $SR_1$ ,  $NR_1R_2$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $SO_2(OR_1)$ ,  $SO_2R_1$ ,  $SO_2NR_1R_2$  or  $PO_2(OR_1)$ .

4).(Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in one claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are identical or different and are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, benzyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl, pyridyl, pyrryl, thienyl, Imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrimidyl, hydroxycarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, aminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkylaminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> arylaminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>

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 $C_{18}$  alkyl,  $di(C_1-C_{18}$  alkyl)-aminocarbonyl- $C_0-C_{18}$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_{18}$  alkyl- $C_6-C_{10}$ -arylaminocarbonyl- $C_0-C_{18}$  alkyl or  $di(C_6-C_{10}$ -aryl)-aminocarbonyl- $C_0-C_{18}$  alkyl.

5).(Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are identical or different and are hydrogen, Cl, Br, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl, benzyl, pyridyl, pyrryl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrimidyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkylthio, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> arylthio, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkylamino, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> arylamino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl)-amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl-C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylamino, di(C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-) arylamino, SO<sub>3</sub>H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkoxysulfonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkylsulfonyl or di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl)-aminosulfonyl.

6).(Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is of the formula (2) or (3)

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7).(Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim

1, comprising the step of condensing a compound of the formula (III)

with at least 2 mole equivalents of a cyclic compound of the formula (IV)

8).(Previously Presented) An organic or inorganic material of high or low molecular mass comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1.

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- 9).(Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a oil-based paint water-based paint, vamish, camouflage paint, spin colored article, plastic, printing ink, colored paper, colored seed, powder coating material, ink jet ink, microemulsion ink or hot melt process ink.
- 10).(Previously Presented) A colorant for electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic developers or electronic links comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1.
- 11).(Previously Presented) A composition comprising an organic or inorganic material of high or low molecular mass and a compound as claimed in claim 1, in an amount of 0.005 to 70% by weight, based on the organic or inorganic material.
- 12).(Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 3 [[1]], wherein n and m independently of one another are 1 to 4.
- 13).(Previously Presented) An organic material of high molecular mass comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1.
- 14).(Previously Presented) An optical layer for optical data storage comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1.

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15) (Previously Presented) A color filter comprising a compound as claimed in claim